

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPAE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00
EB-08 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 PM-05 ICAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00
COME-00 NSCE-00 H-02 L-03 SS-15 /099 W
-----128164 281746Z /46

O R 281652Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0680
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13847

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, GW
SUBJECT: ALLIED CHEMICAL CORP. PROPOSAL TO SHIP
KEPONE FROM U.S. TO FRG FOR PERMANENT STORAGE

REF: (A) STATE 182857, (B) BONN 13456

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TWO ITEMS
CRITICAL OF ALLIED CHEMICAL/KALI STORAGE DEAL ON
KEPONE. PRIOR TO THESE ARTICLES WHICH HAVE JUST
APPEARED, GERMAN PRESS HAD CONFINED ITSELF TO SHORT
NEWS ITEMS WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT. WITH APPEARANCE
OF ARTICLE IN DIE ZEIT AND IN DPA WIRE SERVICE, A WAVE
OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY MAY NOW BE ANTICIPATED, INCLUDING
POSSIBLY A TV PROGRAM DEVOTED TO SUBJECT.

2. DPA, JULY 26, 1978 - PROTEST AGAINST POISONOUS
U.S. WASTE TO BE STORED IN GERMANY

THE GEMEINUETZGE GRUENFLAECHEVEREIN PRO GRUEN (THE
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVING GREEN AREAS PRO
GREEN) HAS VEHEMENTLY PROTESTED THE FINAL DISPOSAL
OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE OF AMERICAN ORIGIN IN A HESSIAN
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POTASSIUM MINE. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS ABOUT 70,000 MEMBERS ACCORDING
TO THEIR OWN ESTIMATES, REFERS TO A DEAL BETWEEN THE
AMERICAN COMPANY ALLIED CHEMICAL AND KALI AND
SALZ AG, KASSEL, HESSE. ACCORDING TO THE GROUP, THE
AMERICAN COMPANY WILL DELIVER 950 BARRELS (200 LITERS
SIZE) OF CHEMICAL ARSENIC WASTE AND RESIDUES OF A

POISONOUS VEGETABLE SUBSTANCE. THE BARRELS WILL BE STORED IN A OLD POTASSIUM MINE AT ABOUT 500 METER DEPTH IN HERFRA-NEURODE (HERSFELD DISTRICT). PRO GRUEN WARNED IN A STATEMENT, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON JULY 26, THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE THE TASK OF GERMANY TO STORE THE POISONOUS PRODUCTS OF AN INSANE, GROWTH ORIENTED USA RIGHT IN THE HEART OF EUROPE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE FACT THAT ENOUGH OF THESE SUBSTANCES ARE BEING PRODUCED HERE ALREADY.

3. DIE ZEIT, JULY 28

WITH THE BLESSING OF THE AUTHORITIES A FIRM UNDERTAKES SOME DANGEROUS BUSINESS - POISON IMPORT

WHERE THERE'S INDUSTRY THERE'S DIRT, AND IF THIS INDUSTRY IS A CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, IT DOES NOT ONLY PRODUCE UGLY, STINKING, BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY POISONOUS AND EXPLOSIVE WASTE.

HAVING TO LIVE WITH IT IS THE TRIBUTE THAT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE BLESSINGS OF OUR HIGHLY TECHNICAL ERA.

HOW WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT IS GOVERNED BY REGULATIONS. OCCASIONALLY AN INDUSTRIAL POLLUTER IS CAUGHT ATTEMPTING TO GET RID OF WASTE WHERE IT IS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPOSED TO BE DUMPED. THEY ARE PILLORIED PUBLICLY AND THIS OCCASIONALLY RESULTS IN A FINE WHICH THE SINNER, WHO IS NOT VERY NEEDY AS A RULE, HAS TO PAY.

BUT IT IS NOT THE PENALTIES WHICH MAKE SUCH TRESPASSES THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE. IT IS MAINLY COMPANIES WHO OBSERVE THE EXISTING REGULATIONS THAT ARE BEING FOLLOWED, THOSE COMPANIES THAT IS WHICH EARN MONEY BY MANAGING THE DISPOSAL OF POISONOUS INDUSTRIAL WASTE. HERE AGAIN WE SEE FREE ENTERPRISE FROM ITS PROBLEM-REGULATING SIDE.

BUT HERE WE ALSO FIND THE TYPICAL DANGER FROM SUCH ECONOMIC REGULATIONS, NAMELY THE RISK THAT THE SYSTEM ITSELF MIGHT LEAD TO ABSURDITY. WE FIND AN EXAMPLE IN THE PAPERS THIS WEEK.

ONE COMPANY THAT IS ENGAGED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DANGEROUS WASTE IS THE KALI AND SALZ AG IN HERFRA-NEURODE NEAR HERSFELD. AS ONE CAN GUESS BY ITS NAME, THE COMPANY OWNS SEVERAL DEFUNCT POTASSIUM MINES, THAT IS, SEVERAL UNDERGROUND MINES WHICH ARE USED FOR

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NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 COME-00
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STORING DANGEROUS MATERIAL. IT LOOKS LIKE GERMAN
INDUSTRY WITH ITS WASTE CANNOT FULLY UTILIZE ALL OF
THE CAPACITY OFFERED BY KALI AND SALZ AG. THEREFORE
THE FIRM OFFERS ITS SERVICES WORLDWIDE. THUS SOME
950 BARRELS, ALL FILLED WITH ARSENIC WASTE FROM A
U.S. CHEMICAL COMPANY, WILL SOON BE SHIPPED ALL THE
WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, AND TRANSPORTED ON RAILS OR
ROADS THROUGH GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN ORDER TO FIND A
FINAL BURIAL GROUND IN HESSE. IN AMERICA THE LAWS
ARE MUCH STRICTER THAN HERE WHICH MEANS THAT THE
POISON TRANSPORTERS DO HAVE TO COMPLY WITH VERY STRICT
STANDARDS, I.E., PAY A VERY HIGH PRICE. THEREFORE IT
IS CHEAPER TO SEND THE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES OVER
THOUSANDS OF MILES INTO A COUNTRY WITH A POPULATION
DENSITY ABOUT TEN TIMES AS HIGH AS IN THE U.S., RATHER
THAN BURY IT IN ONE OF THE NUMEROUS OLD MINES SCATTERED
ALL ACROSS THE U.S.

THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES, OF COURSE, HAVE GIVEN THEIR
BLESSINGS TO THIS INSANITY. WE ACCEPT THE DANGER THAT
WE ARE IMPORTING HEREBY, BECAUSE IT IS FAVORABLE FOR
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OUR EXPORT EARNINGS AND THIS SEEMS TO BE MORE IMPORTANT
IN GERMANY THAN PEOPLE.

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